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Next Meeting: December 4, 2002

10:00 a.m. – Thorburn Center - Ingham ISD (Rooms B and C)

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of November 6, 2002, Meeting
10:00 a.m.

Present: Kathleen Clegg, Pansy Coleman, Cheryl Ervin, Janice Fialka, Ric Hogerheide, Nancy Jackson, Jill Jacobs, Brenda Kotsis, Shari Krishnan, Jim Kubiako, Peggy McNeilly, Pam Mish, Bob Opsommer, Sue Rabidioux, Debs Roush, Deb Russell, Steve Schwartz, Larry Simpson, Donald Spencer, Don Trap, Laurie VanderPloeg, Randall VanGasse, Colette Ward, Steve Wessels, Herb Yamanishi
Ex-Officio members: Doug Nurenberg, Mark Larson
Absent: Patt Clement, Patricia Keller, Ginny Palubin, Deborah Smith
OSE/EIS Staff: David Brock, Fran Loose
Guests: Phyllis Cox-Rebori, Sandi Laham, Tiffany Leischner, Linda Keway, Paul Kubicek, Sandra McLennen, Patti Nowak, Jerry Oermann, Barbara Stork, Jon Wurdock, Jan Yoak-Newman

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Shari Krishnan.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests

Guests attending the meeting were introduced.

Amend/Approve Proposed Agenda

The agenda of the November 6, 2002, meeting was considered. The SEAC agenda item VIII. was amended as follows:

- Report on Education YES! by Randy VanGasse

Brenda Kotsis moved, seconded by Ric Hogerheide, to approve the agenda as written. The motion carried.

Amend/Approve Minutes

The minutes of the October 2, 2002, meeting were considered. Peggy McNeilly moved, seconded by Steve Wessels, to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

Public Comment

None

Chairperson's Report – Shari Krishnan

Jacque Thompson is attending a meeting with Tom Watkins and the State Board of Education to discuss Education YES!, therefore she will not be attending today's SEAC meeting. During the meeting the State Board of Education will be discussing the issues so that action can be taken at the State Board of Education's regularly scheduled November 13th meeting.

Beth Steenwyk will be providing a brief presentation on the President's Commission Report on Excellence in Special Education during the Committee of the Whole meeting. During the lunch break Ms. Steenwyk will be giving a short presentation on No Child Left Behind.

State Department Report – David Brock

The Administrative Rules for Special Education are currently being printed. The document that is being prepared will include Michigan's rules, federal regulations, the Family Education Right Privacy Act (FERPA), the federal regulations question and answer section, Appendix A to Part 300. Once complete, approximately 3,000 copies will be distributed to superintendents, directors of special education, public school academies and more. Members of SEAC will also receive a copy. Copies will also be available at cost from the Center for Educational Networking and copies will be made available at no cost for parents. A total of 25,000 copies will be printed.

The public comment time for the eleven policy and procedure documents being updated came to an end on October 31, 2002. These documents are being updated as a result of revisions to the Administrative Rules for Special Education. Very little comment was received and now the Department will be working along with SEAC to finalize the documents based on that public comment.

The public comment for the State Board of Education position statement on Inclusive Education has been provided to Steve Wessels for review by the Policy Subcommittee. It has been requested that the Policy subcommittee review the material and make their recommendation for change based on the comment that was received. The Policy Subcommittee will bring a recommendation to be discussed at the December meeting.

The surrogate parent policy did not receive much comment but is a State Board of Education Policy. This policy will need to go back to the State Board of Education after SEAC makes its recommendations. Action from SEAC on the surrogate parent policy will need to be completed in January in order to be presented to the State Board of Education in February.

The remaining documents must be completed prior to April when the Department completes their application for the Office of Special Education Programs showing compliance in order to receive federal funding.

It is still expected that a CD-ROM that will contain the special education policies and procedures that are most important to administrators, parents, and teachers will be completed. Before the CD can be constructed, all of the policy and procedure documents that have been out for public comment must be finalized. This CD will include the IEP form and manual and hopefully the ability to create an on-line IEP.

- Education YES! – Randall VanGasse

Randy VanGasse provided a brief overview of how the Education YES! pilot program was conducted in three districts in the Upper Peninsula. The pilot was run at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Randy indicated that it appears to be a workable document for those involved in Education. With this group there appeared to be no outward connection with special education, but there are pieces in with Education YES! that extend to address individuals who are receiving services for special needs.

The pilot was manageable and now they will be conducting an electronic pilot. Education YES! requires self-reporting, giving a 5 or a 2 can be influenced by how the question is interpreted.

Discussion followed.

- President's Commission Report – Beth Steenwyk

Beth Steenwyk provided an overview of the President's Commission Report on Excellence in Special Education. Ms. Steenwyk provided a list of web-sites that may be of interest to SEAC members. An electronic copy of Alan Coulter's report will be sent to the SEAC listserv once it is received.

Discussion followed.

State Board Meeting Report – David Brock

The November agenda will include modification for two ISD plans and watching the activity around Education YES! and how special education fits in. As discussed, the State Board is currently discussing Education YES!, the state's accountability system, and how it matches up with IDEA's requirements and No Child Left Behind.

Information Items

- A. CIMP – The School Age group met in October and focused the barriers keeping students with disabilities from reaching challenging educational standards. Through the Cogni-scope process, the group has identified three primary barriers: the need for more effective pre-service for those working in special education, effective PD for those who are in service roles and enhancing the leadership personnel in general and special education.

The core team is also setting up for their second semester work which will be focusing on secondary transition issues and how can we help students bridge more effectively into successful adult life roles.

- B. SIG – Final reports on the PBS pilot sites are currently being prepared along with a meta-evaluation on all of the awareness trainings that have been completed. The new Request for Proposal for Integrated Behavior Support is now available. This grant addresses both PBS and academic achievement. The data currently being collected should prove to be useful for the new grantee as that program gets underway.

The SIG is also working with the Michigan Department of Education on leadership development for all administrators to help them be more effective with students in their schools. This process will also include interactive work between the SIG and the State Board of Education, as Elevating Educational Leadership is one of the State Board Priorities.

The PDC met again and consolidated to 5 primary outcomes to focus on for the remainder of the school year.

The transition follow-up survey has been sent out. The deadline for schools to mail the surveys to students was November 4, 2002. To date, there have been 350 responses with 10 of those responses coming in on-line. This is a very preliminary cursory collection of baseline data. This is the first time in several years that there has been universal baseline scanning. The hope is that results will yield guidance for where work needs to be done. The goal is a 30% return on this survey, and the survey is going to the student with the option of parent responding.

Action Items

None

Ex-Officio Reports

Institutions of Higher Education — None

Michigan Department of Community Health — Doug Nuerenberg provided a printed summary for SEAC, which outlined the following:

MDCH staff conducted two statewide trainings in June 2002 for CMH agency staff responsible for the Family Support Subsidy Program. These trainings covered the special education rules changes and how they impact the Family Support Subsidy program.

A memo from Tom Watkins dated August 20, 2002, explained the impact that the new administrative rules for special education had on the Family Support Subsidy Program eligibility. The memo included an attachment containing suggested language to identify students who meet education eligibility for the Family Support Subsidy Program.

MDCH is currently in the process of revising pertinent administrative rules to accommodate the special education rules changes. These proposed rules changes have been submitted to the Office of Regulatory Reform. When the Office has approved them, a public hearing will be scheduled.

New forms, brochures and parent surveys are being developed and will be available early 2003.

Anyone that requires more information on the Family Support Subsidy Program should contact Cheryl Thelen, the statewide coordinator, at (517) 335-9480.

Michigan Department of Career Development/Rehabilitation Services – None

Family Independence Agency – None

Committee Reports

Operations — Kathy Clegg reported that the Committee is setting priorities based on SEAC recommendations. One priority will be to review a potential process for keeping members up on pertinent legislation. A recommendation on that should be ready soon. The Committee is reviewing the retreat goal of communication and how SEAC communicates with constituents, organizations that members represent and also the State Board of Education. A recommendation on SEAC communication should be ready soon. Copies of the SEAC agendas are being forwarded to Tom Watkins on a monthly basis and approved SEAC minutes are being forwarded to the State Board of Education.

Policy — Steve Wessels reported that at the last Policy Committee focused on how to develop the top three recommendations to Tom Watkins from SEAC. There was an overwhelming response to the listserv request for information on member organizations top three priorities with regard to IDEA. The committee will also begin to go through the Inclusive Education Position statement comment that David Brock has provided.

State Improvement Plan — Pam Mish reported that the SIP focus topic for this year will be Transition. Jan Yoak Newman will give a presentation on the Transition Services Project and also bring the Committee up to date on what has been happening across the state in the last few years with regard to transition. The SIP committee will be focusing on secondary and post-secondary transition, but a more detailed focus will come from future SIP meetings.

Member Issues

Sue Rabidoux noted that the Michigan Speech Language Hearing Association has received several complaints from various areas of the state regarding personnel that have been working that do not have appropriate certification. Sue has asked that everyone please be aware that there are certification standards for speech-language and audiology personnel. MSLHA has been working with schools on at the pre-complaint level, which has proven to be helpful. In order to have quality programming you need to have quality personnel.

Herb Yaminishi reminded SEAC of the LDA conference beginning on Monday, November 11. Members of SEAC that attend the conference and register on-site will receive a discounted rate.

Peggy McNeilly has provided a Michigan Transition Services Association newsletter in response to requests of what services the organization provides.

Steve Schwartz indicated that the Michigan Association of School Psychologists has noted similar issues of personnel not being appropriately certified.

Future Agenda Items:

None.

The meeting was adjourned to subcommittee meetings.

Monica Butler
Recording Secretary

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Executive Committee
Minutes of November 6, 2002, Meeting
8:45 a.m.

Present: David Brock, Kathleen Clegg, Shari Krishnan, Sandi Laham, Fran Loose, Pam Mish, Larry Simpson, Randall VanGasse, Steve Wessels

1. Follow-up from last Executive Committee Meeting

Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Watkins, will be attending the SEAC Executive Committee meetings on a quarterly basis. This will, although, be dependent on his schedule. SEAC agendas are being forwarded to Mr. Watkins prior to each SEAC meeting. Minutes from the SEAC meetings are being forwarded to the State Board of Education once they have been approved by SEAC.

Tom Watkins and Jacque Thompson are meeting with the State Board of Education and Sandy Kress, President Bush's advisor on No Child Left Behind. The State Board Committee of the Whole is meeting today to discuss the issues around Education YES!, the State's accountability system, IDEA, and No Child Left Behind. This is strictly an informational meeting so that action can be taken at the regularly scheduled State Board meeting on November 13, 2002.

Shari reported that she sent a SEAC quarterly to Mrs. Straus per her request.

2. State Department Report – David Brock

The period for public comment on the eleven documents affected by the changes to the Administrative Rules for Special Education ended on October 31, 2002. Steve Wessels has been provided with all of the public comment on the Inclusive Education Position Statement. David Brock will be providing a summary of all of the document changes at the December 4, 2002, SEAC meeting. The CD-ROMs that will be created which incorporate the Administrative Rules, FERPA, new IEPs should be available in January or February. All of the documents must be reviewed by SEAC before the CD can be created.

The State Board of Education will review Education YES! and modifications to two ISD plans on November 13, 2002.

3. Subcommittee Reports

Operations — Kathy Clegg reported that the Operations committee is currently looking at a process for keeping members informed of current legislation on education. The Subcommittee expects to have a formal recommendation soon. The Operations subcommittee is reviewing the SEAC meeting schedule to determine if meeting on a quarterly basis is a viable option. Copies of agendas are being forwarded to Tom Watkins each month and approved SEAC minutes are being forwarded to the State Board of Education members.

SIP — Pam Mish reported that SIP agreed to focus on secondary and post-secondary transition this year but that the subcommittee's focus still needs to be narrowed.

Policy – Steve Wessels reported that the Policy committee will have a lot to review on the Inclusive Education Position Statement public comment. The Policy subcommittee is also trying to put together a recommendation for SEAC's top three priorities to be presented to Mr. Watkins.

Review of Today's Agenda

Randy VanGasse will give a brief presentation on the Education YES! pilot that has been done in 3 school districts in the Upper Peninsula.

Beth Steenwyk will give a brief presentation on the President's Commission Report on Excellence in Special Education. After her presentation 30 minutes has been set aside in which members of SEAC can ask clarifying questions.

During the lunch break Beth will provide a brief presentation on No Child Left Behind. Box lunches will be made available to SEAC so that best use can be made of the lunch hour.

Future Agenda Development

In December it is anticipated that a box lunch presentation will be conducted on Education YES! and in January on the Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process (CIMP).

Miscellaneous

Neither Shari Krishnan nor Jacque Thompson will be in attendance at the December 4, 2002, SEAC meeting. Steve Wessels, Vice-Chair, will run the meeting.

The Executive Committee will reconvene at 3:00 p.m., after subcommittee meetings, to discuss the discussion around the President's Commission Report on Special Education.

The following summary was prepared by Sandi Laham with regard to SEAC's response to the President's Commission Report on Excellence in Special Education.

So what does SEAC need to do in response to the presentation on the President's Commission Report?

- Focus our energy: Where do we focus our energy? On what? What is the heart of the matter, the heart of special education?
- Considering where we've been and where we are currently, where do we need to be? SEAC can be a leader in posing and discussing these questions.
- Consider what the shared results are that we want and work back from those outcomes
- Consider the recommendation for eligibility without an IQ test. How do we do that? What's the motivation behind that recommendation? What will replace it?
- Consider a joint focus group of general and special educators to look collectively at the issues
- Consider collective dialogue on moving forward with the President's Commission recommendations. Engage families, providers, and professionals in that dialogue.

- Consider how we do professional development with a results focus. How do we do that?
- Summarize the President's Commission Report for the State Board of Education and make recommendations to them with regard to existing barriers and strategies to overcome them ask the Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services for its response to the President's Commission Report.
- Consider the political climate in which this report is being discussed and presented and identify leverage points